

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A combination tool comprising:

a mount having a handle portion and a head portion, said head portion enlarged in at least one dimension relative to said handle portion and characterized by a surface area progressively angularly diverging from said handle portion, a path defined thereat at said handle portion terminating at an opening at said head portion ~~one end of said mount~~, a tape measure blade receiving slot being located through said surface area of said head portion of said mount in said one end of said mount adjacent to said path; and

a knife blade shuttle selectively movable along said path defined at said mount.

2. (Currently Amended) The combination tool of claim 1 wherein said surface area of said head portion of said mount is expansive relative to width of said handle portion. ~~includes a surface at said one end extending angularly relative to said path and having said slot therethrough~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The combination tool of claim 2 wherein said surface area at said one end of said

~~mount~~ is curvilinear and characterized by surface irregularity for resisting slip.

4. (Original) The combination tool of claim 1 wherein said slot and said path are oriented relative to one another in a substantially coplanar relationship.

5. (Currently Amended) The combination tool of claim 1 wherein said mount includes first and second housing portions that define said slot ~~in said mount~~ at one part of each of said first and second housing portions, said first and second housing portions having means at said one parts thereof for resiliently gripping a tape measure blade received in said slot.

6. (Currently Amended) The combination tool of claim 1 wherein said knife blade shuttle includes a blade holding portion and a manually manipulable portion extending away from said blade holding portion and accessible at said mount at a position spaced from said head portion ~~one end~~, said combination tool further comprising lock-out means in said mount and cooperative with said manually manipulable portion of said knife blade shuttle for prohibiting movement of knife blade shuttle in a preselected circumstance.

7. (Currently Amended) A hand tool for measuring and cutting comprising;

a mount including a handle portion and a head portion, a linear path formed therein between a terminus in said handle portion and an opening from said head portion, a tape measure blade receiving slot defined in said head portion and oriented so that said slot and said linear path are substantially coplanar;

~~a knife blade shuttle selectively movable along said linear path formed in said mount between said terminus and said opening; and~~

a saw blade pivotably connected at said handle portion of said mount; -

a cam operatively held in said handle portion of said mount and cooperative with said saw blade at one part and having an accessible part extending through said mount, operation of said cam required for release of said saw blade from securement at either a stored orientation or a fully extended orientation; and

a knife blade shuttle selectively movable along said linear path formed in said mount between said terminus and said opening, said knife blade shuttle including a manipulable portion accessible through said handle portion of said mount for slidably moving said shuttle along said linear path and for selectively engaging said accessible part of said cam for operating said cam.

8. (Currently Amended) The hand tool of claim 7 wherein said saw blade is connected in said handle portion of said mount at an end thereof opposite said head portion of said mount, wherein said hand tool further comprising a one part of said cam is a first operatively held in said handle portion of said mount and cooperative with said saw blade at one leg thereof and wherein said accessible part of said cam is at an opposite leg thereof through said mount at a position spaced from said end of said handle portion of said mount, operation of said cam required for release of said saw blade from either a stored orientation with said blade interior said mount or a fully extended orientation with said blade exterior said mount for use, thereby allowing pivoting movement of said saw blade to the other of said stored orientation or said fully extended orientation and resecurement thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) The hand tool of claim 8 wherein said knife blade shuttle includes a blade holding portion having said and a manually manipulable portion extending away therefrom, said manipulable portion from said blade holding portion and accessible through said handle portion of said mount at a position spaced from said head portion and for slidably moving said shuttle

~~along said linear path, said manually manipulable portion including a recess therein engageable with said opposite leg of said cam when said knife blade shuttle is moved to said terminus in said handle portion for operating said cam to allow movement of said saw blade.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The hand tool of claim 8 wherein said saw blade includes a mounting base for pivotable connection at said handle portion of said mount, said mounting base having first and second detents positioned thereabout at locations corresponding to said stored orientation and said fully extended orientation of said saw blade, respectively, and engageable by said ~~one~~ first leg of said cam, said cam including means for biasing said ~~one~~ first leg of said cam toward engagement with said detents at said mounting base of said saw blade.

11. (Original) The hand tool of claim 7 further comprising a divider in said mount between said knife blade shuttle and said saw blade.

12. (Original) The hand tool of claim 11 further comprising a magnetic strip located at said handle portion of said mount at a side of said divider opposite said saw blade for holding a replacement blade usable in said knife blade shuttle.

13. (Original) The hand tool of claim 7 wherein said head portion of said mount includes a surface adjacent to said slot, said surface having striations formed therein for resisting slip.

14. (Currently Amended) A combination tool for cutting drywall comprising:

first and second housing portions forming a mount when assembled, said mount having a path defined therein by said first and second housing portions with said path terminating at an opening between said first and second housing portions at one end of said mount, a tape measure blade receiving slot defined in said mount by said first and second housing portions and located in said one end of said mount adjacent to said path, ~~and an exterior surface of said mount characterized by a plurality of rasp teeth thereat for filing;~~

first and second resilient clips at said first and second housing portions, respectively, adjacent to said slot defined in said mount and configured to cooperatively grip a tape measure blade received in said slot; and

a knife blade shuttle selectively movable along said path defined in said mount, ~~+ and~~

~~a saw blade pivotably connected in an opposite end
of said mount from said one end.~~

15. (Original) The combination tool of claim 14 wherein at least one of said first and second housing portions includes at least a first guideway, and wherein said knife blade shuttle includes a guide, said guideway and said guide cooperatively containing movement of said knife blade shuttle.

16. (Currently Amended) The combination tool of claim ~~14~~ 20 wherein one of said first and second housing portions includes a plurality of detents positioned to be adjacent to said path defined in said mount, and wherein said knife blade shuttle includes a blade holding portion and a manually manipulable portion extending away from said blade holding portion, said manually manipulable portion having a resilient arm between said blade holding portion and a slide accessible through an access at said mount defined by said first and second housing portions at a position spaced from said one end of said mount, a dog located between said slide and said arm releasably engageable in said detents of said one of said first and second housing portions.

17. (Original) The combination tool of claim 16 further comprising a cam maintained at one of said first

and second housing portions and cooperative with said saw blade at one leg thereof and accessible at an opposite leg thereof through said mount adjacent to said access at said position spaced from said one end of said mount, said cam including biasing means for biasing said one leg of said cam toward engagement with said saw blade while biasing said opposite leg of cam through said mount, said slide of said manually manipulable portion of said knife blade shuttle including a recess therein engageable with said opposite leg of said cam when said knife blade shuttle is moved to a retracted position for selectively operating said cam against bias of said biasing means by depressing said slide to allow movement of said saw blade.

18. (Currently Amended) The combination tool of claim ~~14~~ 20 wherein said rasp teeth are formed transversely at one of said housing portions and oriented directionally to carry material away from said opening at said one end of said mount.

19. (Currently Amended) The combination tool of claim ~~14~~ 20 wherein said saw blade is mounted at one of said first and second housing portions at the interior of said mount, said saw blade pivotable from a stored orientation within said mount to a fully extended

orientation through an elongated space defined in said mount between said first and second housing portions.

20. (Currently Amended) The combination tool of claim 14 wherein an exterior surface of said mount is characterized by a plurality of rasp teeth thereat for filing, said tool further comprising first and second resilient clips at said first and second housing portions, respectively, adjacent to said slot defined in said mount and configured to cooperatively grip a tape measure blade received in said slot a saw blade pivotably connected in an opposite end of said mount from said one end.